

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) who has a major piece of legislation pending, all of us coming together, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the Majority Leader, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the Majority Whip, to support the first major comprehensive appropriation for the Nation's emergency response community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been in this body for 14 years. Before coming to this body, I was the mayor of my town; and before that, I was the volunteer fire chief and spent a good part of my life working as a volunteer fire fighter, fire instructor, trainer for 80 fire companies as a volunteer in southeastern Pennsylvania.

It was 13 years ago that I helped organize what is today the largest caucus in this body and the other body, and that is the Congressional Fire and EMS Caucus. Our role has been to raise the awareness of these brave Americans who every day of every year have protected our country from domestic tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other group of people largely volunteer who, each year, lose 100 of their members who are killed while responding to disasters, because that is what happens in America every year. On average, 100 fire and EMS personnel are wiped out either in fires, in accidents, hazmat incidents, floods, tornados, responding to emergency situations, who are just doing their job. There is no other profession where 85 percent of the people are volunteers and yet 100 of them are killed each year.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize these people on the House floor tomorrow. Our bipartisan amendment will put forth \$100 million of emergency supplemental funds to help these men and women better prepare to serve their communities.

Now, a cynic might ask, why would the Federal Government want to help what is basically a local responsibility? We are not trying to federalize the fire service. But we are asking the fire and EMS people across this country to do more and more every day.

We are asking them to respond to incidents of terrorism involving chemical or biological weapons. We are asking them to respond to large natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and tornados. Yet the bulk of the money to buy the equipment and do the training of these people comes from chicken dinners, tag days, and suppers in the fire halls.

We have an opportunity tomorrow, Democrats and Republicans, to come together with an overwhelming vote in support of our American heroes. These brave men and women who, for 250 years, have protected America's towns and cities, a unique aspect of this group, Mr. Speaker, is they protect our inner city urban areas and they protect our rural farming districts. They are all over America.

We have missed the boat. We created the AmeriCorps program, a great idea

to promote volunteerism. Do my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, the volunteer fire service cannot even qualify for the hundreds of millions of dollars that AmeriCorps gets each year?

We support the law enforcement, the police departments in AmeriCorps, in fact about \$3 billion a year. We even use Federal funds to help buy the police vests for the local police officers. But we have done nothing for the fire and EMS community.

The President wants 100,000 new teachers. He wants 100,000 new police officers, not a mention of the fire and EMS personnel departments and people across America.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, in this body, our colleagues can have a chance to support the first major appropriation of real dollars to help these brave men and women: \$10 million to fully fund the rural fire protection program, for small rural departments, \$10 million for burn research, and \$80 million for a national grant program to be competitively based, where every fire department in America can compete for a dollar-for-dollar match for funds to provide communications, training, equipment, to help them better protect their towns.

Finally, we will change the provision of one of the largest Federal block grant programs to our cities and counties across America, the Community Development Block Grant Program, to allow that money to be used if the local leaders so choose for fire and EMS. That could mean the availability of up to \$4.8 billion this year of money already going out to our cities and counties across America.

I would ask our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to respond affirmatively. I would ask our constituents all across America to make those phones ring tomorrow morning from 8 o'clock on to make sure that all of our colleagues are aware that it is time that this body step up and support these brave American heroes, people who every year have fought to keep our towns and our cities safe.

The supplemental bill is important. It will put more money into defense. It will put more money into FEMA. But for the first time, we have an opportunity to put money into those organizations that have been there in each of our towns protecting our citizens. Each congressional district has, on average, 80 fire and EMS departments, ambulance organizations, organizations involving rescue and fire departments. Tomorrow is our chance in this body to support that legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask our colleagues to support the amendment that will be offered by myself, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) with the support of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the support of peo-

ple like the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), as we come together in a bipartisan message of support for these brave and true American patriots, the men and women we call our domestic defenders.

I urge our colleagues and our constituents again to make sure that we hear that message loudly and clearly tomorrow. Get on the phone. Make those calls. Be heard so that this government responds with a token amount of money to allow these people to continue to serve America most of them being volunteers.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0108

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3908, 2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-549) on the resolution (H. Res. 450) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (at the request of Mr. ArmeY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. METCALF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILIRAKIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, April 4.

Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DELAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1731. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide that certain environmental reports shall continue to be required to be submitted; to the Committee on Commerce.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1000. To amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, March 29, 2000, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6816. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests for FY 2000 supplemental appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Transportation; the Social Security Administration; and, the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States; (H. Doc. No. 106-218); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6817. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting A report identifying the percentage of funds that were expended during the two preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair workloads, pursuant to Public Law 105-85 section 358 (111 Stat. 1696); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6818. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Ad-

ministration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Interim Rule for the Assessment of Civil Penalties Under Section 502(c)(5) or ERISA (RIN: 1210-AA54) received February 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6819. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Interim Rule Governing Procedures for Administrative Hearings Regarding the Assessment of Civil Penalties under Section 502(c)(5) of ERISA (RIN: 1210-AA54) received February 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6820. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Cable Services Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Implementation of Section 11(c) of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992; Horizontal Ownership Limits [MM Docket No. 92-264] received March 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6821. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Paxton, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 99-159 RM-9616] (Overton, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 99-160 RM-9617] (Hershey, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 99-161 RM-9565] (Sutherland, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 99-162 RM-9566] (Ravenna, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 99-192 RM-9633] received March 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6822. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Colony and Weatherford, Oklahoma) [MM Docket No. 99-190 RM-9631 RM-9689] received March 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6823. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Denmark and Kaukauna, Wisconsin) [MM Docket No. 99-36 RM-9372] received March 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6824. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Pleasanton, Bandera Hondo, and Schertz, Texas) [MM Docket No. 98-55 RM-9255 RM-9327] received March 8, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6825. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Russia [Transmittal No. DTC 014-00], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

6826. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to describe the extent to which commercial and industrial type functions were performed by DOD contractors during the preceding fiscal year, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6827. A letter from the Benefits Manager, CoBank, transmitting the annual report of the Comptrollers' ACB Retirement Plan for the year ending December 31, 1998, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6828. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the FY 1999 Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6829. A letter from the Administrative Officer, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the annual report on Audit & Investigative Activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6830. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6831. A letter from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting a copy of the Biennial Report to Congress on the Status of GPO Access, an online information service of the Government Printing Office, pursuant to Public Law 103-40, section 3 (107 Stat. 113); to the Committee on House Administration.

6832. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Extension of the Interim Rule [Docket No. 990422103-9209-02; 031099B] (RIN: 0648-AL75) received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6833. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Child; Educational Institution (RIN: 2900-AJ54) received March 6, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6834. A letter from the Director, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting a report entitled, "A Study of Governance and Management"; jointly to the Committees on Resources and Ways and Means.

6835. A letter from the Administrator's of Federal Aviation Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting an amendment to the joint report to Congress on the progress being made under the Subsonic Noise Reduction Technology Program, Fiscal Year 1998, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 1353 nt.; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science.

6836. A letter from the Administrator's of Federal Aviation Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a joint report to Congress on the progress being made under the Subsonic Noise Reduction Technology Program, Fiscal Year 1998, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 1353 nt.; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. LEACH: Committee on Banking and Financial Services. H.R. 3519. A bill to provide for negotiations for the creation of a trust fund to be administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the International Development